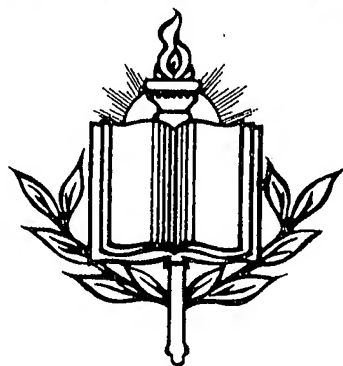


WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language

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piled (pild), *adj.* having a pile, as velvet and other fabrics. [1400-50; late ME: covered with hair; see *pile*², *EX*]

pile/ driver, *n.* a machine for driving piles, usually composed of a tall framework in which either a weight is raised and dropped on a pile head or in which a steam hammer drives the pile. 2. a person who operates such a machine. 3. a person who hits or attacks forcefully or powerfully. 4. Wrestling, a move whereby an opponent is turned upside down and slammed headfirst to the mat. 5. *Brit. Sports.* a powerful stroke, hit, kick, etc. [1765-75]

pile/ fend/er. See *fender pile*.

pileolated (pi'lē a lā'tid, pil'ē-), *adj.* pileated.

pileolated warbler, either of two western subspecies of Wilson's warbler.

pileous (pi'lē əs, pil'ē-), *adj.* hairy or furry. [1835-45; *PIL*² + *-OUS*]

pileum (pi'lē əm, pil'ē-), *n.* pl. **pile-a** (pi'lē ə, pil'ē-), the top of the head of a bird, from the base of the bill to the nape. [1870-75; < NL, special use of *L. pileum*, var. of *pileus* skullcap]

pile-up (pil'up/), *n.* 1. a massive collision of several or many moving vehicles. 2. an accumulation, as of work, chores, or bills. 3. a rough or disorderly falling of people upon one another, as in a football game. [1825-35; *n.* use of *v.* phrase *pile up*]

pile-us (pi'lē əs, pil'ē-), *n.* pl. **pile-i** (pi'lē i/, pil'ē i/) for 1, 2, 4, **pile-us** for 3. 1. *Mycol.* the horizontal portion of a mushroom, bearing gills, tubes, etc., on its underside; a cap. See *diag.* under *mushroom*. 2. *Zool.* a. the umbrella or bell of a jellyfish. b. *pileum*. 3. Also called **cap cloud**, **scarf cloud**. *Meteorol.* a small, thin cloud just above or attached to a growing cumulus cloud. 4. a felt skullcap worn by the ancient Romans and Greeks. [1750-60; < NL, special use of *L. pileus* skullcap; akin to Gk *pilos* felt, felt cap]

pile-wort (pil'wurt/, -wōrt/), *n.* 1. Also called **fireweed**, a weedy composite plant, *Erechtites hieracifolia*, having narrow flower heads enclosed in green bracts. 2. a North American figwort, *Scrophularia marilandica*, having small, greenish flowers. 3. See **lesser celandine**. [1870-80; *PIL*² + *-wort*, so called from its use in medicine]

pile-fer (pil'fer/), *v.t.* *u.t.* to steal, esp. in small quantities. [1540-50; *v.* use of late ME *pilfer* booty < MF *pel-fer*. See *PILF*] —**pile-fer-er**, *n.* —**Syn.** thief, purloin, filch, appropriate.

pile-fer-age (pil'fer ij/), *n.* 1. the act or practice of pilfering; petty theft. 2. something that is pilfered. [1620-30; *PILFER* + *-AGE*]

pile-grim (pil'grīm, -grīm), *n.* 1. a person regarded with mild or pretended contempt or pity. 2. *Obs.* a bald-headed man. [1520-30; earlier *pylyd garleke* lit., peeled garlic, orig. metaphor for a bald man, whose head is compared to a peeled garlic bulb. See *PILL*², *GARLIC*] —**pile-grim/ly**, *adj.*

pile-grim (pil'grīm, -grīm), *n.* 1. a person who journeys, esp. a long distance, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion: *pilgrims to the Holy Land*. 2. a traveler or wanderer, esp. in a foreign place. 3. an original settler in a region. 4. (cap.) one of the band of Puritans who founded the colony of Plymouth, Mass., in 1620. 5. a newcomer to a region or place, esp. to the western U.S. [1150-1200; ME *pilgrim*, *pelegrim*, *ON* *pirilgrim*, *MLG* *pelegrim*, *OHG* *pilgrim*, *ON* *pilgrim*, all < ML *pelegrinus*, dissimilated var. of *L. peregrinus* PEREGRINE] —**pile-grim/mat/ly**, *adj.*

pile-grim-age (pil'grē mij/), *n.* *u.* *v.* **-aged**, **-ag-ing**. —*n.* 1. a journey, esp. a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion: *a pilgrimage to Lourdes*. 2. *Islam.* a. the **Pilgrimage**, hajj. b. *umrah*. 3. any long journey, esp. one undertaken as a quest or for a votive purpose, as to pay homage: *a pilgrimage to the grave of Shakespeare*. —*v.t.* 4. to make a pilgrimage. [1200-50; ME *pilgrimage* (see *PILGRIM*, *-AGE*); *r.* earlier *perigrimage*, alter. of OF *perigrin*] —**Syn.** 3. excursion, tour. See *trip*.

pile/grim bot/tle, a flat-sided water bottle having two loops at the side of a short neck for a suspending cord or chain. Also, **pile/grim's bot/tle**. [1870-75]

Pilgrim's Prog/ress, an allegory (1678) by John Bunyan.

pill (pī lē/), *n.* pl. **-lles**. 1. a Philippine tree, *Canarium ovatum*, the edible seeds of which taste like a sweet almond. 2. Also called **pill nut**, the seed of this tree. [< Tagalog]

pill (pī lē/), *n.* Biol. pl. of **pilus**.

pill, a combining form meaning "hair," used in the formation of compound words: *piliform*. [comb. form repr. *L. pilus*; see *-i*]

pill-er-ous (pī lif'ər əs/), *adj.* having or producing hair. [1840-50; *PILL* + *-EROUS*]

pill-i-form (pī lē fōrm/), *adj.* having the form of a hair; resembling hair. [1820-30; < NL *piliformis*. See *PILL*, *-FORM*]

pill-ki-a (pē lē kē'ā/), *n.* Hawaiian. trouble.

pill-ing (pī ling/), *n.* 1. a mass of building piles considered collectively. 2. a structure composed of piles. [1400-50; late ME *pylyng*. See *PILE*², *-ING*¹]

Pil-i-pi-no (pī lē pē'nō/), *n.* a language essentially the same as Tagalog that has been adopted as the official national language of the Philippines. Also called **Filipino**.

pill (pī lē/), *n.* 1. a small globular or rounded mass of medicinal substance, usually covered with a hard coating, that is to be swallowed whole. 2. something unpleasant that has to be accepted or endured: *Ingratitude is a bitter pill*. 3. *Slang.* a tiresomely disagreeable person. 4. *Sports Slang.* a ball, esp. a baseball or golf ball. 5. the **pill**. See **birth-control pill**. 6. *pills*, *Brit. Slang.* billiards. —*v.t.* 7. to dose with pills. 8. to form or make

into pills. 9. *Slang.* to blackmail. —*v.i.* 10. to form into small, pill-like balls, as the fuzz on a wool sweater. [1375-1425; late ME *pille* < MLG, MD *pille* < *L. pilula*, dim. of *pila* ball; see *-ULE*]

pill² (pī lē/), *v.t.* *u.i.* 1. *Brit. Dial.* to peel. 2. *Obs.* to become or cause to become bald. [bef. 1100; ME *pilen*, OE *pilian* to skin, peel < *L. pilāre* to strip (said of hair). See *PIL*²]

pill³ (pī lē/), *v.t.* *u.i.* *Archaic.* to rob, plunder, or pillage. [1150-1200; ME; prob. conflation of *PILL*² with MF *piller* (see *PILLAGE*)]

pill-lage (pil'ij/), *v.* **-laged**, **-lag-ing**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to strip ruthlessly of money or goods by open violence, as in war; plunder: *The barbarians pillaged every conquered city*. 2. to take as booty. —*v.i.* 3. to rob with open violence; take booty: *Soldiers raided the countryside, pillaging and killing*. —*n.* 4. the act of plundering, esp. in war. 5. booty or spoil. [1350-1400; ME *pilage* (see *PILL*³, *-AGE*), modeled on MF *pillage* (deriv. of *piller* to pillage, orig. to abuse, mistreat, tear, of uncert. orig.)] —**pill-lager**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. rob, sack, spoil, despoil, rape. 4. rapine, depredation, spoliation. 5. plunder.

pill-lar (pil'ər/), *n.* 1. an upright shaft or structure, of stone, brick, or other material, relatively slender in proportion to its height, and of any shape in section, used as a building support, or standing alone, as for a monument: *Gothic pillars; a pillar to commemorate Columbus*. 2. a natural formation resembling such a construction: *a pillar of rock; a pillar of smoke*. 3. any upright, supporting part; post: *the pillar of a table*. 4. a person who is a chief supporter of a society, state, institution, etc.: *a pillar of the community*. 5. *Horol.* any of several short parts for spacing and keeping in the proper relative positions two plates holding the bearings of a watch or clock movement. 6. *Mining.* an isolated mass of rock or ore in a mine, usually serving as a roof support in early operations and later removed, wholly or in part. 7. *Naut. mast* (def. 2). 8. *from pillar to post*, *a.* aimlessly from place to place. b. uneasily from one bad situation or predicament to another. —*v.t.* 9. to provide or support with pillars. [1175-1225; ME *pillare* < ML *pilare* (see *PIL*², *-AR*); *r.* earlier *pilar* < OF < ML, as above]

—**pill-lared**, *adj.* —**pill-lar-like**, *adj.* —**Syn.** 1. pilaster, pier. See *column*.

pill-lar-and-breast (pil'ər ən brest'/), *adj.* *Mining.* room-and-pillar.

pill-lar box, *Brit.* a pillarlike box in which letters are deposited for collection by mail carriers; mailbox. Also called **pill-lar post**. [1855-60]

pill-lar-et (pil'ər ret'/), *n.* a small pillar. [1655-65; *PILL-LAR* + *-ET*]

Pill-lars of Her/cules, the two promontories on either side of the eastern end of the Strait of Gibraltar: the Rock of Gibraltar in Europe and the Jebel Musa in Africa; fabled to have been raised by Hercules. Also called **Hercules' Pillars**.

Pill-lars of Is/lam, the five bases of the Islamic faith: shahada (confession of faith), salat (prayer), zakat (alms-giving), sawm (fasting), esp. during the month of Ramadan), and hajj (the pilgrimage to Mecca). Also called **Pill-lars of the Faith**. Cf. *din*, *ibada*.

pill-box (pil'box/), *n.* 1. a box, usually shallow and often round, for holding pills. 2. a small, low structure of reinforced concrete, enclosing machine guns, and employed as a minor fortress in warfare. 3. a small, round, brimless hat with straight sides and a flat top, worn esp. by women. [1720-30; *PILL*¹ + *box*¹]

pill/ bug, any of various small terrestrial isopods, esp. of the genera *Armadillidium* and *Oniscus*, which can roll themselves up into a spherical shape. [1835-45, *Amer.*]

pill-head (pil'hed'/), *n.* *Slang.* a person who habitually takes pills, esp. amphetamines or barbiturates. [1960-65; *PILL*¹ + *HEAD*]

pill-ion (pil'yan/), *n.* 1. a pad or cushion attached behind a saddle, esp. as a seat for a woman. 2. a pad, cushion, saddle, or the like, used as a passenger seat on a bicycle, motor scooter, etc. 3. a passenger's saddle or seat behind the driver's seat on a motorcycle. [1495-1505; < ScotGael *pillinn* or Ir *pillin*, dim. of *peall* skin, rug blanket, MIr *pell* < *L. pellis* skin]

pill-i-winks (pil'ə wingkə/), *n.* (used with a singular or plural *v.*) an old instrument of torture similar to the thumbscrew. [1350-1400; Scots var. of late ME *pyrwynes*, *pyrewinkes* < ?]

pill-lory (pil'lō rē/), *n.* pl. **-ries**, *v.* **-ried**, **-ry-ing**. —*n.* 1. a wooden framework erected on a post, with holes for securing the head and hands, formerly used to expose an offender to public derision. —*v.t.* 2. to set in the pillory. 3. to expose to public derision, ridicule, or abuse: *The candidate mercilessly pilloried his opponent*. [1225-75; ME *pyllory* < OF *pilori*, perh. < ML *pilorium*, equiv. to *L. pil(a)* pillar (see *PILL*¹) + *-orium* -ory, though Rom vars. such as Pr *epillori* suggest a less transparent source]

pillory
(def. 1)



pil-low (pil'ō/), *n.* 1. a bag or case made of cloth that is filled with feathers, down, or other soft material, and is used to cushion the head during sleep or rest. 2. anything used to cushion the head; headrest: *a pillow of moss*. 3. Also called **lace pillow**, a hard cushion or pad that supports the pattern and threads in the making of bobbin lace. 4. a supporting piece or part, as the block on which the inner end of a bowsprit rests. —*v.t.* 5. to rest on or as on a pillow. 6. to support with pillows. 7. to serve as a pillow for: *She pillowed the child with her body*. —*v.i.* 8. to rest as on a pillow. [bef. 900; ME *pilwe*, OE *pylu* < *L. pulvinus* cushion (whence also G *Pfuhl*)] —**pill/low-less**, *adj.* —**pill/low-like**, *adj.* —**Syn.** 1. See *cushion*.

pil/low block, *Mach.* a cast-iron or steel block for supporting a journal or bearing. [1835-45]

pil-low-case (pil'ō kās'/), *n.* a removable sacklike covering, usually of cotton, drawn over a pillow. Also called **pil-low-slip** (pil'ō slip/). [1715-25; *PILLOW* + *CASE*¹]

pil/low lace, *See* **bobbin lace**. [1855-60]

pil/low la/va, *Geol.* lava in the form of an agglomeration of rounded, pillow-shaped masses, the result of subaqueous or subglacial volcanic eruption. [1900-05]

pil/low sham, an ornamental cover laid over a bed pillow. [1870-75]

pil/low sword, a straight sword of the 17th century.

pil/low talk, private conversation, endearments, or confidences exchanged in bed or in intimate circumstances between spouses or lovers. [1935-40]

pil-low-y (pil'ō ē/), *adj.* pillowlike; soft; yielding: *a pil-low-y carpet*. [1790-1800; *PILLOW* + *-Y*]

pil/ pop/er, *Informal.* a person who takes pills regularly and in quantity. [1960-65]

pil/ push/er, *Slang* (usually disparaging). 1. a medical doctor, esp. one who too readily prescribes medication. 2. a pharmacist. [1905-10]

Pills-bury (pilz'ber'ē, -bə rē/), *n.* Charles Alfred, 1842-99, U.S. businessman.

pi-lo-car-pine (pi'lō kār'pēn, -pin, pil'ə-), *n.* *Pharm.* an oil or crystalline alkaloid, $C_{11}H_{19}N_2O_2$, obtained from jaborandi, and used chiefly to produce sweating, promote the flow of saliva, contract the pupil of the eye, and for glaucoma. [1870-75; < NL *Pilocarpus* (us) name of the genus of shrubs which includes jaborandi (< Gk *pilo* the felt, wool or hair made into felt + *-o* -o- < *-karpōs* -CARP) + *-INE*]

pi-lon (pē lōn/), *n.* Southwestern U.S. (chiefly Texas). something extra; lagniappe. [1880-85; *Amer.*; < MexSp *pilon* lit., trough, mortar, Sp: deriv. of *pila* basin, trough < *L. pila* mortar]

pi-lo-ni-dal (pi'lō nid'ē/), *adj.* *Pathol.* noting or pertaining to a growth of hair in a dermoid cyst or in the deeper layers of the skin. [1875-80; < NL; see *PIL*², *-O-*, *NIDUS*, *-AL*]

Pi-los (pē lōs/), *n.* Greek name of Navarino.

pi-lose (pil'ōs/), *adj.* covered with hair, esp. soft hair; furry. Also, **pilous**. [1745-55; < *L. pilosus* shaggy. See *PIL*², *-OSE*]

—**pi-los-ity** (pi'lōs'ē-tē/), *n.*

pi-lot (pi'lēt/), *n.* 1. a person duly qualified to steer ships into or out of a harbor or through certain difficult waters. 2. a person who steers a ship. 3. *Aeron.* a person duly qualified to operate an airplane, balloon, or other aircraft. 4. a guide or leader: *the pilot of the expedition*. 5. See **coast pilot** (def. 1). 6. See **pilot light** (def. 1). 7. *Mach.* a guide for centering or otherwise positioning two adjacent parts, often consisting of a projection on one part fitting into a recess in the other. 8. *Railroads.* cowcatcher. 9. Also called **pilot film**, **pilot tape**. *Television.* a prototypical filmed or taped feature, produced with hopes of network adoption as a television series and aired to test potential viewer interest and attract sponsors. 10. a preliminary or experimental trial or test: *The school will offer a pilot of its new computer course*. —*v.t.* 11. to steer. 12. to lead, guide, or conduct, as through unknown places, intricate affairs, etc. 13. to act as pilot on, in, or over. 14. to be in charge of or responsible for: *We're looking for someone to pilot the new project*. —*adj.* 15. serving as an experimental or trial undertaking prior to full-scale operation or use: *a pilot project*. [1520-30; earlier *pylote* < MF *pilotte* < *It. pilota*, dissimilated var. of *pedota* < MGk **pēdōtes* steersman, equiv. to *pēdā* rudder (pl. of *pēdōn* oar) + *-ōtes* agent suffix] —**Syn.** 2. helmsman. 13. maneuver, manage.

pi-lot-age (pi'lō tāj/), *n.* 1. act, occupation, or skill of piloting. 2. the fee paid to a pilot for his or her services. 3. See **pilot station** (def. 1). 4. the process of directing the movement of a ship or aircraft by visual or electronic observations of recognizable landmarks. [1610-20; < F; see *PILOT*, *-AGE*]

pi/lot balloon, a balloon for the visual observation of upper-atmosphere wind currents. [1840-50]

pi/lot bis/cuit, hardtack. Also called **pi/lot bread**. [1830-40, *Amer.*]

pi/lot boat, a boat carrying pilots to or from large ships. [1850-90]

pi/lot burn/er. See **pilot light** (def. 1). [1900-05]

pi/lot chart, 1. any of a number of charts issued to mariners by the U.S. Hydrographic Office and showing meteorological, hydrographic, and navigational conditions prevailing, or likely to prevail, subsequent to the date of issue in some part of the world; issued monthly for most areas. 2. a chart giving information on atmospheric conditions at various altitudes.

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: *act*, *cāpe*, *dāre*, *pār*; *set*, *ēqual*, *if*, *īce*, *ox*, *ōver*, *ōrder*, *oil*, *ōshō*, *bōat*, *ōut*, *ūp*; *ōrgē*; *chīld*; *sīng*; *shōr*, *thīn*, *thāt*; *zh* as in *treasure*, *o* = *a* as in *alone*, *e* as in *system*, *i* as in *easy*, *o* as in *gallop*, *u* as in *circuit*; *a* as in *fire* (*fīr*), *hour* (*ōur*). *l* and *n* can serve as syllabic consonants, as in *cradle* (*krādēl*), and *button* (*būt'n*). See the full key inside the front cover.